

WELCOME CLASS OF 2021!

The Alabamian

Vol. 92, No. 1

Thursday, August 31, 2017

Main Street makeover almost complete



By GEORDIE KENNEDY

As Summer draws to a close, normal student life here at the University begins again. After the initial excitement of orientations, reunions and new classes dies down and students settle in, an annual question comes to the minds of new and returning students alike; “what is there to do around here?” What the city of Montevallo lacks in size, it makes up for in a distinct personality. While one can find this unique atmosphere regularly in such places as the Main Street Tavern or Orr Park, Montevallo regularly distinguishes itself through numerous events and projects. Led by the campus and city alike, these endeavors ensure that the city is always changing and evolving to suit the needs and interests of its residents.

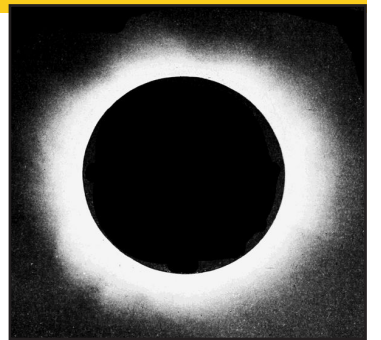
Mayor Hollie Cost provided insight into the plethora of upcoming events that students have to look forward to. “We probably have more natural beauty to appreciate and more culture in a town this size than any other place in Alabama,” said Dr. Cost. Among the most immediately notable projects currently underway is the Main Street Renewal Project. A facet of the Main Street Alabama, the project seeks to renovate and revitalize the town’s most central point. The ongoing construction along Main Street seeks to bring more walking space, public benches, new traffic lights and many other amenities. All these changes intend to make the town more accessible to both those with disabilities as well as citizens in

general. Cost commented; “Just expect for [Main Street] to be a much more welcoming place for the community.” Other changes coming to Main Street include several new shops which will be revealed at a later date. One new addition, however, is nearing completion and has proven to be the talk of campus. The Main Street Taco Bell will soon be completed, much to local excitement. The establishment was brought to town by a student led petition, and will open shortly. Another project in the area nearing completion is Shoal Creek Park. The 167 acre park off Montevallo Road will feature scenic vistas, hiking trails and recreational areas for all ages. One of the most momentous

occasions in the coming weeks is the town’s bicentennial celebration. On September 9th, Orr Park will play host to the Bicentennial Birthday Bash, a carnival like event to celebrate the milestone. The event will host local artists and historians alike, showcasing the long history of the town. Students are urged to participate in the evolution of Montevallo going forward. The local government offers many opportunities to join committees and dialogues regarding local issues and interests. “What I would want students to do is to feel that they are truly a citizen of Montevallo,” says Cost, “You’re not just here temporarily, you’re here, you live here and you’re a citizen of Montevallo.”

Montevallo Main Street undergoing renovation. Photo by Katie Compton.

SOLAR ECLIPSE FACTS



By LAURA DEROCHE

On Monday, August 21st, students gathered outside of Harman hall to observe the solar eclipse. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon’s path of orbit places it between the earth and the sun. At totality, the moon obscures the sun completely, leaving only its glowing atmosphere, or corona, visible from Earth. Solar eclipses occur every 18 months, but last week’s total eclipse was visible across the entire continental United States- something that hasn’t occurred since 1918. This time, Montevallo was just slightly outside the path of totality, resulting in a 92.3% eclipse. During the 1918 Eclipse, totality occurred a little further south, closer to Mobile, so without eye protection, it’s unlikely that students at the Alabama Girl’s Industrial School would’ve been able to see much difference in the sky. Solar eclipses have been studied throughout history, with the oldest known record dating back to about 1335 BC. Tablets found in Ugarit, or present-day Syria, recorded an eclipse on May 3rd. In ancient China, people would take to the streets with drums and attempt to scare away the dragon they believed was trying to eat the sun. Medieval eclipse records also mentioned a dragon. Medieval people tracked the sun and moon’s movements across the sky as the dragon’s head and tail. In 1868, a French physicist named Jules Janssen observed a solar eclipse in India, and noticed the movement of light from the sun’s atmosphere. Along with Joseph Norman Lockyer, a British astronomer, he discovered a new element. They called it “helium”, after the Greek word for the sun, “helios”. Today, scientists are not only able to predict approaching eclipses, but are also able to create artificial eclipses using a device called a coronagraph. However, coronagraphs still have technical limitations, and according to C. Alex Young, associate director of the Heliophysics Science Division at NASA, they “still cannot come close to what nature provides during an eclipse seen on the ground.” For scientists, solar eclipses present valuable opportunities to study our universe, and for all humans, they are beautiful, fascinating events that can inspire anyone to look to the stars- just not without some glasses on!

Charlottesville: the aftermath



By JASMYNE RAY

As most Alabamians know, the Confederate States of America were established in Montgomery in 1861, with Montgomery acting as the capital. However, when Virginia seceded from the Union, they offered up the city of Richmond to serve as the capital. With Montgomery being a much smaller city located so far south, it was an offer the Confederacy couldn’t refuse.

Alt-right protesters gather for Charlottesville march. Photo courtesy of CNN

Even though the Confederacy lost the Civil War, its remnants and relics are spread throughout the South. After the Charleston shooting in 2015, there was a call to action to remove Confederate monuments. As more people began to rally around the idea and some of the monuments began to come down, many were worried that their Confederate heritage was being erased.

Earlier this month, a rally to protest the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue in Emancipation Park (renamed from Lee Park in 2016) in Charlottesville, Virginia was held August 11 and 12. Dubbed the “Unite the Right” rally, protesters in the form of white nationalists, supremacists and neo-Nazis flocked to Charlottesville donning swastikas and Confederate flags and marching to

racist chants.

Something to understand is that rallies like these are protected under the First Amendment. The people in attendance were practicing a constitutional right. However, things took a dangerous turn when the protesters began to get violent with the counter-protesters at the scene. The governor declared a state of emergency. There were three deaths and over 30 injuries.

The University of Montevallo is a unique place. Miles away from the first capital of the Confederacy, our student body is something that no one from that period could ever fathom. Students of all walks of life, races, religions, sexualities learning together, eating together, sitting on the quad together, joining the same clubs, sororities, fraternities. As scary as situations like the Charlottesville rally are, we should be able to come together as students, as colleagues, as friends and drown out the hate. This is a safe place.

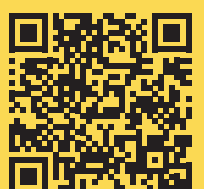
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Summer 2017 Political Timeline



James Comey prepares to give testimony at the FBI hearings. Photo courtesy of NBC.



The Floor of the House of Representatives. Photo courtesy of Politico.

By JAMIE HAAS and GEORDIE KENNEDY

May 9: President Donald Trump fired FBI Director James Comey.

May 15: News broke of Trump sharing information pertaining to ISIS threat with Russian officials.

May 17: Former FBI head Robert Mueller was appointed to oversee Trump-Russia investigation.

May 18: Trump departed for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking the start of his first foreign trip as president.

May 20: Notre Dame students staged walkout during Vice President Pence’s commencement speech.

May 23: Trump sent budget to Congress, a \$4.1 trillion plan that would boost military spending and cut programs for low-income citizens.

July 21: White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer resigned and was replaced by Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

July 4: North Korea successfully test launched an intercontinental ballistic missile with the capability to reach the U.S.

June 22: Republicans in the Senate unveiled a plan to scrap the Obama administration’s health-care law, along with cuts to Medicaid and taxes for the rich.

June 14: House Majority Whip Steve Scalise was shot by a lone gunman while practicing for the congressional baseball game.

June 1: The US withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord, which it had previously joined in 2016.

July 25: Senate struck down GOP attempt to repeal and replace Obamacare, with surprising “no” vote from Senator McCain.

July 26: Trump announced ban on transgender citizens serving in US military, citing “tremendous medical costs and disruption” as his reasoning.

August 1: Senate approved new FBI Director Christopher Wray.

August 8: Trump made promises of “fire and fury” in response to North Korean escalation of nuclear activity.

August 12: The “Unite the Right” Alt-Right rally ended in violence after clashes between groups of protesters.

August 14: White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon resigned after submitting intent a week before.

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Cult classic anime’s film adaptation met with criticism



By AUDREY MECKE

Light discovers the Death Note after it is dropped into the human world. Photo courtesy of Netflix.

Ten years ago, the immensely popular anime series *Death Note* premiered in the United States. Its plot follows the genius high school student Light Yagami finding a notebook with the power to kill anyone as long as the user has the victim's full name and face in their mind. The series is most accurately described as a supernatural crime thriller, with the bulk of the action being the intricate

games of cat and mouse in which Light and L, a world-renowned detective, engage. On Friday, August 25, the American movie adaptation of *Death Note* premiered on Netflix and the reviews are, well, harsh to say the least. In the series, Light's high intelligence drives the story as there is no way he could pull off what he does without being able to rival the smartest detective in

the world. The American Light on the other hand, now called Light Turner (Nat Wolff of *Naked Brothers Band* fame), is very clearly not supposed to be as smart as that in the source material, if smart at all. The flaws in characters and scripts become the movie's largest problem as not only are the characters now unrecognizable, but they don't make sense.

Light's original goal to be a god is replaced with Light's desire to impress a blood-thirsty cheerleader that he just met. The movie's pacing is also incredibly rushed, glossing over important scenes and leaving the viewers in a state of confusion to what is happening and how. Despite this, the movie isn't completely horrible. The famous actor Willem Dafoe nails his role as the

original owner of the notebook, a death god named Ryuk. Lakeith Stanfield, recognizable from the critically acclaimed *Get Out* earlier this year plays the detective L. Though there are mixed reviews on his performance, in my opinion he did an excellent job both staying true to the character and bringing a breath of fresh air to the role itself. The current rating on Rotten Tomatoes for *Death Note* (2017) is 43% which I would say is accurate. Given the task at making a 37-episode series into one 101-minute-long movie, it still isn't the worst anime adaptation out there. Actually, it's probably one of the best. Anime movie adaptations are known for being flops for either being whitewashed or for trying to fit in too much in too little time, but it's usually a combination of both. In the end, the movie is still entertaining to watch and brought a lot of laughs, even if unintentional. And hey, maybe it will bring about a new resurgence of fans for this cult classic anime series.

Montevallo enters new athletic season

By ALEX TEJADA


Since leaving the Peach Belt for a return to the Gulf South Conference, a new sense of optimism has emerged among the Falcons' teams. This week, volleyball as well as men's and women's soccer kick off their seasons with non-conference openers. Coach Katie O'Brien enters her ninth season looking to build on last season's 12 and 16 record. Last year's Peach Belt Conference and Southeast Region Player of the Year Kristy Bohan returns for her senior season after being named a Preseason All-Gulf South selection ahead of the Falcons' return to the conference. This weekend, the Falcons travel to Salisbury, North Carolina to open their 2017 campaign. They play two

games on Friday against Catawba and Chowan before taking on Belmont Abbey on Saturday. Their first home game is Tuesday, September 5 against Miles College. They open Gulf South play at Valdosta State on the 15th before their first home Gulf South matchup against Alabama-Huntsville on the 26th. The Falcons lost setter Hannah Christie but look to replace her with Harley Masoner who played important sets last season. The defense will be experienced and look to be anchored by senior libero Grace Harris. She will be joined by Nicolette Fiessinger, Brie Blume and Michaela Henderson in the backcourt. Junior Shannon Dudley will look to help Bohan out in the kills




department. Coach O'Brien has also brought in three freshman outside hitters: Liz Tisch, Claudia Chisolm and Evelina Teran. Bruce Dietterle's men's soccer team is predicted to finish 4th in their first season back in the Gulf South. They lost Steven Rocca and Oliver Cykowski but return with last year's top scorer Liam Moore and assist leader Patrick Morton. Keeper Robert Kuta leads the backline and has seniors Josh Keller and Austin Petrovich in front of his net to keep out the conference's top strikers. With Jeff Hessenberger and Kevin Francis departing, the scoring burden will have to be shouldered by other players besides Liam Moore. The Falcons have 13

newcomers this season and hope for big things from fellow Germans Lukas Hauer and Krenar Krasniqi. They travel to Cleveland, Tennessee this week to open the season against Anderson before taking on Trevecca Nazarene two days later. Their first game at Varsity Field is against Saint Leo on Sunday, September 10. The third season for Robert Lane sees the Falcons entering the Gulf South as a darkhorse team to make the conference tournament. Despite being projected to finish 10th, the Falcons return senior and last season's leading scorer Taylor Gonzales as well as 2016's assist leader, Tylor Ring. Defender Madison Madewell started every game in her

freshman season and will hope to hold down the defense for keeper Judith Perez-Bayon who featured in seven games last year. Montevallo has a young team, with Sarah Daniels and MJ Gray the only seniors besides Gonzales. Val Vissagio and Michaila Franklin look to build on solid debut seasons. Taylor Garrison and Hampton Brinson hope to have breakout junior seasons. The Falcons welcome Faulkner to Varsity Field for the season opener at 7 p.m. and hope to avenge last year's 1-0 away defeat. They open Gulf South play next weekend on the road to Valdosta State.

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PLAYLIST



ECLIPSE AND ECLIPSE

“Thanks Fr Th Mmrs” - Fall Out Boy
The only thing Eclipse produced more than milkshakes was memories. For years students, locals and alumni alike gained memories of all kinds from the iconic locale.

“Total Eclipse of the Heart”- Bonnie Tyler
While not exactly about an actual eclipse, this Bonnie Tyler classic has no trouble finding its way onto this list. Whether this song evokes memories of a natural wonder or a well loved local hotspot are up to the listener.

“Here Comes the Sun” - The Beatles
For many, the recent eclipse signified a time of change renewal. This beatles hit may seem a little on the nose at first, but whether literal or metaphorical, we all love to see the return of the sun.

“While My Guitar Gently Weeps” - Regina Spektor
This song is dedicated to the gone-but-not-forgotten Eclipse open mic nights once frequented by townies and students alike.

“Super Honeymoon” - Owl City
There's certainly something romantic about a once-in-a-lifetime event like an eclipse, and this super cute song sets the scene.

“As We Are Now” - Saint Raymond
Is it too early to bask in nostalgia over Eclipse? We don't think so, and the bittersweet lyrics of this gentle track serve as the perfect background music to do just that.

“Drops of Jupiter” - Train
A timeless hit from Train, Drops of Jupiter is focused on moving on and the continuation of one's journey. Even after its departure, Eclipse will live on in

the hearts and minds of the campus for years.

“Sunlight” - The Mowgli's
This track selection might be a tad literal, but when I heard The Mowgli's wailing about “waiting for the sunlight,” and “laughing until the sun comes up,” it was just too reminiscent of our most recent natural phenomenon to not include it in this playlist.

“Campus” - Bastille
In this track, Bastille describes a college campus brimming with research, gossip and stress. While all of these are surely present at UM, one campus staple that'll be missed this semester is Eclipse. At least we have Dan Smith's vocals to fill that empty space in our heart once occupied by milkshakes.

“Milkshake” - Kellis A final farewell to Eclipse and one of its most beloved products. We'll miss you.



August 18 marked a momentous day in the lives of hundreds of people. The class of 2021 settled into a new home here at Montevallo on Freshman Move In Day. Assisted by older students, freshmen moved in accompanied by a mix of excitement and anxiety. The university welcomes these newcomers with open arms.



Photos by Katie Compton